Fire and Rescue Department

Fairfax County

Two-Alarm Franconia Church Fire

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units responded to a church fire in the Franconia area of Fairfax County at approximately 4:10 a.m., Monday, December 20, 2004. The commercial building, Laurel Grove Baptist Church, is located at 6834 Beulah Street.

First arriving fire and rescue units reported heavy fire visible through the roof of the church. An additional alarm was dispatched bringing over 50 emergency personnel to the scene. Firefighters conducted an aggressive attack through heavy winds and extreme cold temperatures, and brought the fire under control in approximately 30 minutes. Two firefighters were transported to Inova Healthplex Franconia-Springfield for minor injuries and released.

Due to the historical value of the church and its contents, the damage assessment is being calculated and is not available at this time.

Fire investigators determined the cause of the fire to be accidental; an electrical malfunction in the attic area caused the fire.

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NEWS RELEASE